

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04595 100909Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 HA-05 SES-02 /096 W
-----024582 110116Z /13

R 100510Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9160
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USUN NY 4066

UNCLAS BEIRUT 4595

E,O, 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, UN, US, CE, SCUL, PEPR

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF SOUTH LEBANON

1. IN LEAD STORY ON EFFORTS TO SEND LEBANESE ARMY UNIT TO SOUTH, LEADING INDEPENDENT AN-NAHAR AUGUST 9 BANNERLINED: "LEBANON CONSIDERS ISRAELI TERMS 'DIFFICULT AND IMPOSSIBLE'." PAPER SPOKE OF A MESSAGE FONMIN. BUTROS RECEIVED FROM SECRETARY VANCE REGARDING HIS TALKS IN ISRAEL. MESSAGE SAID TO INCLUDE BRIEFING ON TALKS ABOUT SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON AND DIFFICULTIES OBSTRUCTING ENTRY OF LEBANESE ARMY TO BORDER AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426. MESSAGE WAS ALSO CENTER OF DISCUSSIONS IN TUESDAY MEETING OF SARKIS, HOSS AND BUTROS, WHO IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID: "WE WILL STUDY SITUATION IN LIGHT OF CONTENTS OF MESSAGE."

2. NAHAR SAYS THAT ACCORDING TO "GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES" MESSAGE SUMS UP ISRAELI POSITION, WHICH THEY DESCRIBED AS "AIMING TO FORCE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO SWALLOW ITS DECISION."

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04595 100909Z

3. CANCELLATION OF GOL DECISIONS RE MAJORS HADDAD AND SHIDIAC, APPOINTING ONE OF THEM AS ASSISTANT TO LT. COL. ADIB SAAD, AND ISRAEL'S OBJECTIONS TO ROUTE USED BY LEBANESE ARMY UNIT WERE MENTIONED BY "INFORMED POLITICAL SOURCES AS BEING AMONG ISRAELI TERMS," ADDED AN NAHAR.

4. SAME SOURCES REPORTED REJECTION OF ISRAELI TERMS BY LEBANESE

GOVERNMENT, ADDING THAT GOL STILL CONSIDERING SITUATION AND HOLDING FINAL DECISION IN ABEYANCE PENDING RESULTS OF AMBASSADOR GHASSAN TUEINI'S EFFORTS AT U.N.

5. RESORTING TO SECURITY COUNCIL WAS ONE OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BY CCABINET, "ALTHOUGH IT FEARED ISRAEL WOULD EXPLOIT COUNCIL SESSIONS TO RAISE MARGINAL ISSUES CREATING LEBANESE-ARAB SENSITIVITIES," AN NAHAR SAID.

6. AN NAHAR ADDED: "POLITICAL CIRCLES WERE ASTONISHED AT AMERICA'S CHOOSING ROLE OF MEDIATION BETWEEN LEBANON AND ISRAEL RATHER THAN USING PRESSURE TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTION 425, SPONSORED BY U.S. ITSELF. THEY WONDERED WETHER U.S. HAD ABANDONED THAT RESOLUTION."
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: MILI, SCUL, PEPR, US, CE, LE, IS, UN
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